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FOOD INFORMATION CALENDAR

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No. 137

"EQUALITY FOR AGRICULTURE" was discussed by Secretary Anderson November 12 at the annual meeting of the Association of Commissioners, Secretaries, and Directors of Agriculture at Memphis, Tenn. "If ever there was a time for some hard, clear thinking about the shape of agriculture to come and what we want to do about its basic problems, that is right now," he told the group. He said that the question of economic equality for agriculture requires much solid grass-roots consideration and declared: "The Federal Government cannot, and should not, do everything. What it does do should be the distillate of careful judgment all over the Nation. . . ."

Mr. Anderson referred to the Agricultural Adjustment Act as the Magna Charta for agriculture and praised the work of those who pioneered in establishing its principles. He said, however, that parity price bases have been changed and amended so much in the past 15 years that they are now a patchwork of special provisions. "Today parity prices for many commodities have little relation to reality. This is a serious matter when you consider that the parity concept is one of the pillars on which we hope to uphold the principle of economic equality for agriculture."

The Secretary suggested these steps for reaching an up-to-date, workable parity formula: "First, we have to define 'a fair share of the national income'; second, we have to devise a parity formula that would yield that fair share as defined; and third, we have to work out methods by which our parity goals can be reached." He said that the parity income goals should be agriculture's fair share of the national income under full employment and that one way of assuring that fair share is a system of parity prices that encourages the kind of an agriculture the Nation needs, one that is not tied rigidly to the past, but is flexible enough to allow us to look to the needs of the future." For the entire 15-page speech see Press Release No. 2082.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . November 8, the Senate passed a bill to liberalize the G. I.

Bill of Rights; Congress received the Department's proposals for pink boll-worm control. November 13, the House received the President's message recommending additional funds for UNRRA. November 14, the Senate Appropriations Committee reported the appropriation rescission bill.

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USDA ORGANIZATION CHARTS. . . . Two new USDA organization charts are available.

One is a block chart showing all agencies and branches and their connection each with the other. The second chart summarizes the functions and lists the branches of the various agencies. Copies of these charts may be obtained from the Office of Information; ask for the "block" chart dated October 24 or the "functional" chart dated October 25.

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THE CORN SITUATION AND FEEDING DEMAND, as summarized by BAE recently, is something like this: Total corn supplies larger than a year ago in the Eastern Corn Belt States but considerably smaller in the Western Corn Belt. In the South Atlantic and South Central regions, more corn is on hand than a year ago and less will be needed from "surplus" producing areas this year. Since there will be less wheat fed in the North Atlantic States in 1945-46, larger quantities of corn and oats will be needed in that area than were shipped last season. Supplies of feed grains in Western States are slightly under those of a year ago, but reductions in the number of livestock is expected to offset the reduced supply on hand, leaving requirements for in-shipments of feed grain about the same as last season.

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USDA PRESS RELEASES OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. . . . Col. Emory C. Cushing to again head E&PQ Division--2086; Sugar statistics for first nine months of 1945--2087; Looking Forward with the South, Secretary Anderson at Anderson, S. C., November 14--2088; Early fertilizer buying is urged--2091; No cotton marketing quotas in 1946-47--2109; USDA terminates WFO-11--2111; "Agriculture looks to the Future," J. B. Hutson in Indianapolis, November 15--2112; USDA suspends storage limitation on restricted commodities--2120.

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PLATTER CUTTING NOV. 22. . . . The transcription scheduled for cutting November 22 will contain another of the "Farm Science Serves the Nation" series and an REA discussion entitled "When the Lights Go On." On the farm science side of the platter Frank W. Parker of BPI will tell how the war brought farmers a new nitrogen fertilizer. Ammonium nitrate made in enormous quantities for use in explosives soon came into widespread use as a fertilizer in the United States.

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RECENT USDA PUBLICATIONS. . . . Collecting Data and Specimens for Study of Economic Plants, Misc. Pub. No. 568, 52 p.; What Peace Can Mean to American Farmers--Expansion of Foreign Trade--, Misc. Pub. No. 582, 21 p.; The Packaging of American Cotton and Methods for Improvement, Circ. No. 736, 62 p. (The economic feasibility of "standard density" packaging and its effect on the marketing system for cotton and on the processing of the cotton by mills is covered in detail in this circular).

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"SOMETHING YOU DIDN'T EAT". . . . Sixteen mm. prints of the Walt Disney nutrition film, "Something You Didn't Eat," were sent to State film depositories last week. In most cases one print was sent to each State. The prints are the property of Walt Disney and must be returned to him by December 31, 1947

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ANOTHER DATE TO REMEMBER is the annual meeting of the American Association of Home Demonstration Agents, at Chicago, December 5-7.

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SUGAR IMPORT CONTROLS. . . . The Department has extended import controls to cover all products containing cane or beet sugar or any ingredient in the manufacture of which cane or beet sugar was used, under an amendment to WFO 63, effective November 15. This action is designed to increase direct consumption sugar imports to this country by preventing diversion of sugar. Formerly, controls were imposed only on imports of products containing 40 percent or more of sugar.

Import controls have been removed on edible and inedible sesame oil; sesame seed, neatsfoot oil, and animal oils known as neatsfoot stock; rapeseed, barley, corn, including cracked corn and corn meal, flour, grits, and similar products. In addition, the Department has removed controls on direct imports of 10 meat products into Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

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SUGAR CONFERENCES SCHEDULED. . . . Earl B. Wilson, director of the Sugar Branch, PMA, will meet with leaders of the sugar industry in the United States continental cane and beet producing areas in a series of conferences to discuss programs to assure maximum continental sugar production in 1946 and to develop further a long-term postwar sugar program. The conferences will be held during November in Denver, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, and New Orleans. Later conferences will be held in other sugar areas.

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PUSH TURKEY, CHICKEN. . . . More chicken and turkey is available for civilians now than before the war. So much more that PMA is pushing it with a 2-page consumer fact sheet to which is attached 6 pages of BHN:HE tips about poultry, recipes and instructions for canning culled hens. The entire piece will be sent this week to heads of consumer organizations, PMA field offices, and other agencies of the Department. Copies are available in the Office of Information. A special edition of the Food Trade Letter will go out the first of next week in a further effort to stimulate use of poultry. The fact sheet points out that there will be plenty of cranberries to go with the chicken and turkey--635,000 barrels as compared with 370,000 in 1944.

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RADIO EVENTS NOVEMBER 24. . . . NATIONAL FARM AND HOME HOUR, O. S. Aamodt of BPI will discuss the new hybrid alfalfa. . . . YOUR HOME AND GARDEN SHOW, John Baker and Elizabeth Pitt of USDA's Radio Service are on the line-up for homemaker news. Dr. Richard P. White, Executive Secretary of the American Nurseryman's Association, and the Moore-DuMars team will discuss common mistakes in selecting ornamental plants. . . . CONSUMER TIME, Facts about peanuts of interest to consumers will be dramatized. "WASHINGTON FRONT" SHOW, E. J. Rowell of PMA and Gilbert Kingsbury, WLW's Washington news editor, will be heard on the WLW "Washington Front" show at Cincinnati in a transcribed discussion of factors in post-war agriculture.

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GOOD PUBLICITY IN A GOOD CAUSE. . . . Extension services in at least 38 States helped get the Dumbarton Oaks proposals and the United Nations Charter before the people. The State Department's Division of Public Liaison devoted several pages in a pictorial report "to the superb /educational/ job the Department of Agriculture did in the Extension Division." The report is being brought to the attention of the Secretary of State and other officials.

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JOHN GUNTHER, that well-known author, was "amazed" at the high caliber, variety, and efficient distribution of USDA publications on a visit to the Department this week. A recent cartoon in The New Yorker shows a lady who says, "Isn't it about time for another of John Gunther's insides to come out?" It seems that such is the case and that the work of the Department will be high-lighted in a section of a book about America similar to Mr. Gunther's "Inside Europe."

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